

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Derek Benke on September 3rd, 2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Claims 1-8, 10, 12-14, 20 and 28 are canceled.
- b. In line 8 of claim 19, line 9 of claim 21, line 11 of claim 27, and line 13 of claim 29, the phrase "means for" is replaced with the phrase "step of".
- c. In line 8 of claim 9, line 8 of claim 11, and line 10 of claim 15, the phrase "the number" is replaced with "a number".
- d. In line 9 of claim 9, line 9 of claim 11, and line 11 of claim 15, the phrase "the information" is replaced with "information".
- e. In line 10 of claim 9, line 10 of claim 11, line 12 of claim 15, line 8 of claim 16, line 8 of claim 19, and line 9 of claim 21, the phrase "the number" is replaced with "a number".

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- f. In line 11 of claim 9, line 11 of claim 11, line 13 of claim 15, line 10 of claim 16, line 10 of claim 19, line 11 of claim 21, line 9 of claim 16, line 9 of claim 19, and line 10 of claim 21, the phrase “the totality of the code blocks” is replaced with “a total number of code blocks”.
- g. In line 12 of claim 9, line 12 of claim 11, line 14 of claim 15, line 10 of claim 16, line 10 of claim 19, and line 11 of claim 21, the phrase “the count results” is replaced with “the number of effective bitplanes”.
- h. In line 12 of claim 9, line 12 of claim 11, line 14 of claim 15, line 10 of claim 16, line 10 of claim 19, and line 11 of claim 21, the phrase “the number of bitplanes for encoding” is replaced with “a number of bitplanes for encoding”.
- i. In line 11 of claim 22, line 11 of claim 27, and line 13 of claim 29, the phrase “the number” is replaced with “a number”.

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3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - a. The innovation distinction that makes the claimed invention allowable is encoding the number of bitplanes only based on the predicted bitplanes and predicting the bitplanes by counting the number of effective bitplanes and referencing said number to a table.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CLAIRE WANG whose telephone number is (571)270-1051. The examiner can normally be reached on Mid-day flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew C Bella/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2624

Claire Wang
09/03/2008